II.   LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing replaces any and all prior listings of the claims:

1. (Previously presented) A multi-column user interface for managing threaded on-line conversations, comprising:

a first column for chronologically displaying a set of messages in a conversation;

a second column for displaying a branch of messages corresponding to a message selected in the first column; and

a conversation map for illustrating relationships between messages in the conversation, wherein the conversation map changes according to the branch of messages displayed in the second column.

2. (Previously presented) The multi-column interface of claim 1, wherein each of the set of messages may comprise content selected from the group consisting of text, images, files, links to other documents and links to websites.

3. (Original) The multi-column interface of claim 2, wherein each of the set of message is represented by a name.

4. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein each of the set of messages has an associated content icon indicating a type of content of the set of messages.

5. (Previously presented) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein the conversation map illustrates and aids in navigation of a hierarchy of the set of messages in the conversation.

6. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 5, wherein a display attribute of the conversation map is altered based on a chronology of the set of messages.

7. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, further comprising a list of participants in the conversation.

8. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, further comprising a list of other conversations related to the conversation.

9. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein the second column further includes a set of navigation buttons for navigating about the branch of messages.

10. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein each message in the branch of messages is displayed in a separate region of the second column.

11. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein each message of the set of messages displayed in the first column has an associated indicator for indicating a quantity of predecessors and successors.

12. (Previously presented) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein each message of the set of messages includes an associated in-line reply button.

13. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated author icon.

14. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, wherein the first column is additionally represented by a vertical index, and wherein each message of the set of messages is represented in the vertical index at a position proportional to its time stamp in a chronological sequence of the set of messages.

15. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 14, wherein the vertical index comprises a navigation aid that allows a user to move forward and backward in time to each of the set of messages.

16. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 14, wherein each in a series of user inputs in the vertical index moves the first column one message forward or backward in the chronological sequence of messages.

17. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, further comprising a third column for displaying hierarchical child messages of a message selected in the second column.

18. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, further comprising a third column for displaying messages authored by a same participant in the conversation as a message selected in the first column.

19. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 1, further comprising a third column for displaying messages authored by a same participant in the conversation as a message selected in the second column.

20. (Previously presented) A multi-column user interface for managing threaded on-line conversations, comprising:

     a first column for chronologically displaying a set of messages in a conversation;

     a second column for displaying a branch of messages corresponding to a message selected in the first column, wherein each message in the branch of messages includes navigation buttons for navigating about adjacent hierarchical levels of the branch of messages; and

     a conversation map for illustrating relationships between messages in the conversation, wherein the conversation map changes according to the branch of messages displayed in the second column.

21. (Previously presented) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, wherein the conversation map illustrates and aids in navigation of a hierarchy of the set of messages in the conversation.

22. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 21, wherein a display attribute of the conversation map is altered based on a chronology of the set of messages.

23. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, further comprising a list of participants in the conversation.

24. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, further comprising a list of other conversations related to the conversation.

25. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, wherein each message of the set of messages in the branch of messages is displayed in a separate region of the second column.

26. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated indicator for indicating a quantity of predecessors and successors.

27. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated in-line reply button.

28. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated author icon.

29. (Original) The multi-column user interface of claim 20, further comprising a third column for displaying hierarchical child messages of a message selected in the second column.

30. (Previously presented) A program product stored on a recordable medium, which when executed, comprises program code for generating a multi-column user interface for managing threaded on-line conversations, wherein the multi-column user interface includes

a first column for chronologically displaying a set of messages in a conversation,

a second column for displaying a branch of messages corresponding to a message selected in the first column and

a conversation map for illustrating relationships between messages in the conversation, wherein the conversation map changes according to the branch of messages displayed in the second column.

31. (Previously presented) The program product of claim 30, wherein the conversation map illustrates and aids in navigation of a hierarchy of the set of messages in the conversation.

32. (Original) The program product claim 31, wherein a display attribute of the conversation map is altered based on a chronology of the set of messages.

33. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein the multi-column user interface further includes a list of participants in the conversation.

34. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein the multi-column user interface further includes a list of other conversations related to the conversation.

35. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein the second column further includes a set of navigation buttons for navigating about the branch of messages.

36. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein each message in the branch of messages is displayed in a separate region of the second column.

37. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated indicator for indicating a quantity of predecessors and successors.

38. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated in-line reply button.

39. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein each message of the set of messages has an associated author icon.

40. (Original) The program product of claim 30, wherein the multi-column user interface further includes a third column for displaying hierarchical child messages of a message selected in the second column.